GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2909
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
BLINDNESS
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether blindness prevention campaign is being run at war footing from several years in the country;

(b) whether the objectives of this campaign has not been completely achieved

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a large number of persons lost their eye sight due to sub-standard medicines, and lack of adequate medical care; and

(e) if so, the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) The National Programme for Control of Blindness is an on going Scheme being implemented throughout the country since 1976.

(b)&(c)The objective of reducing prevalence level to 0.3% has been partially achieved due to non availability of eye surgeons in backward areas of the States, inadequate infrastructure such as operation theatres, equipments, lack of awareness about services etc.

(d)&(e) No, Sir. Very few episodes of unfavourable outcomes have been reported from the States, which are negligible when compared to the fact that over 30 lakh operations are being performed in a year. To reduce any mishaps, monitoring of the programme is being strengthened through strict compliance of technical guidelines, emphasis on institutional surgery rather than eye camps etc.